

**MINUTES OF MEETING
LAND ACQUISITION & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (L.A.M.P.) BOARD
July 23, 2009 3:30 PM**

Proceedings of meeting held in the Commission Conference Room, St. Johns County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Members Present: Mark Middlebrook, Sarah Owen Gledhill, Lee Gerald,
Michael Adams, Nick McAuliffe and Charles Metcalf

Members Absent: Rich Turnbull and Charles Padera

Staff Present: Tony Cubbedge – Environmental Division

Guests: Susan Metcalf

1. Welcome / Call to Order

Turnbull out of town, Adams called the meeting to order at 3:45 P.M. and welcomed those present.

2. LAMP Business Items

a. Approval of Minutes of the January 22, 2009 meeting

Motion by Middlebrook, seconded by McAuliffe. Carried 6/0 to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2009 meeting as submitted.

b. Consider new applications and recommendations

After discussion, this item would not receive formal action by the Board. Leve's vacant position filled the role of Geology/Hydrology. The applications were provided to the Board members for review and consideration at a future meeting. With the current fiscal challenges and no dedicated acquisition funds, it is not a high priority to seat a new member. Gerald suggested a courtesy call to these applicants to let them know they were still being considered and the present fiscal challenges. The applicants will be discussed at the next LAMP meeting.

c. Guana Parcel

The 7.5 ac (2 ac encumbered with a Conservation Easement) parcel was presented to the LAMP Board for acquisition consideration. The owner was seeking \$10,000/ac, but would consider offers. Gerald comment on the mitigation value of the site being less than \$10,000/ac. Cubbedge noted the County has recently acquired sites for \$2,000 to \$3,000/ac. Middlebrook reminded everyone that we had no dedicated funding and moved to let the owner know LAMP has no interest and no dedicated funding at present. Motion was seconded by Gledhill and was approved 6/0.

3. LAMP Workshop Item

a. Florida Forever updates

Cubbedge updated LAMP on Florida Forever Status. The funding was not approved for the first time in the history of the program. Our Board of County Commissioners passed Res. 2009-27 and sent letters of support to Senators and Representatives with territory in St. Johns County. Bonds for the previous cycle were to be sold in late summer of 2009 and County staff continues to support the Meldrim Conservation Easement acquisition. The Florida Forever Coalition is holding another conference call on 7/24/09 and Middlebrook indicated they are looking for County support now for the upcoming Legislative cycle. Middlebrook also noted that non-profits may look to run a campaign for support of upcoming Florida Forever cycle.

b. North Guana Access (Oar House) Update

Cubbedge informed the group that the North Florida Land Trust was working to bring a contract that the County could support for acquisition of the site. The County reserved \$275,000 in tree bank funds as a match for the site if the Land Trust could raise the balance. This reservation was until September 30 and would need to be extended. Gledhill asked for an explanation of the tree bank fund. Cubbedge noted that funds are paid in when trees cannot be replaced on a development site. Those funds can be used to acquire trees for County projects, affordable housing and a recent addition included preservation of natural areas including access and trails. It was noted that the site would only be developed within its existing footprint and maintain a canopy of trees in the Guana area. The site would also provide for public access to the northern portion of Guana, close to the population area in the northeast portion of the County.

c. Annual Report

Cubbedge reviewed a copy of the annual report that was prepared in March.

4. Member Reports

McAuliffe noted the Cemetery Conference in June was well received and Robin Moore was a presenter. The dig continues at the Cathedral Parrish School. Suggested a joint LAMP HRB meeting to visit sites with natural and cultural ties in the fall.

Middlebrook noted that Senator King was in Hospice care. Senator King was a long time supporter of Florida Forever and the St. Johns River. He also noted that the UNF construction school could be a partner in historic restoration efforts.

Metcalf noted his concern to keep equestrian interests for trail opportunities in St. Johns County. He noted conversations with Wil Smith from Parks and Recreation and the recently completed portion of the River to Sea Loop on SR 207 would not have an equestrian section. He will continue to share his concerns.

Adams echoed the suggestion to visit some of the natural and cultural sites in the fall.

5. Public Comment

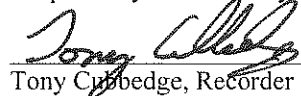
No public comment

6. Adjournment

Adams called the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m., seconded by Gledhill, carried 6/0 to adjourn meeting.

An audio tape of this meeting is on file and available for review in the St. Johns County Environmental Division.

Respectfully submitted by:


Tony Cubbedge, Recorder

Approved 3-25-10, 2009


Rich Turnbull, Chairman